

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Moreover, when the charged state of the secondary battery 7 is detected prior to execution of operation in step S2, if discrimination is made that no ~~[[an]]~~ ability exists ~~[[in]]~~ for discharging the electric power at a rate greater than a certain given level, the controller section 21 operates to interrupt start-up operation of the fuel cell system. This precludes the secondary battery 7 from being degraded. Here, operation to discriminate the charged status of the secondary battery 7 may be performed not only one time prior to execution of step S2 but may be necessarily executed prior to execution of step S2.